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Blanchard

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[54] **BELT DISPLAY HANGER**

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[73] Assignee: **Batts, Inc.,** Zeeland, Mich.

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[51] **Int. Cl.**[5] **A47G 25/18;** A47G 25/28

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **223/88;** 223/95; 223/85; 223/87; D6/328

[58] **Field of Search** 223/85, 88, 87, 95, 223/93, 90, 91, 96; 211/13, 113; 248/305; D6/315, 328

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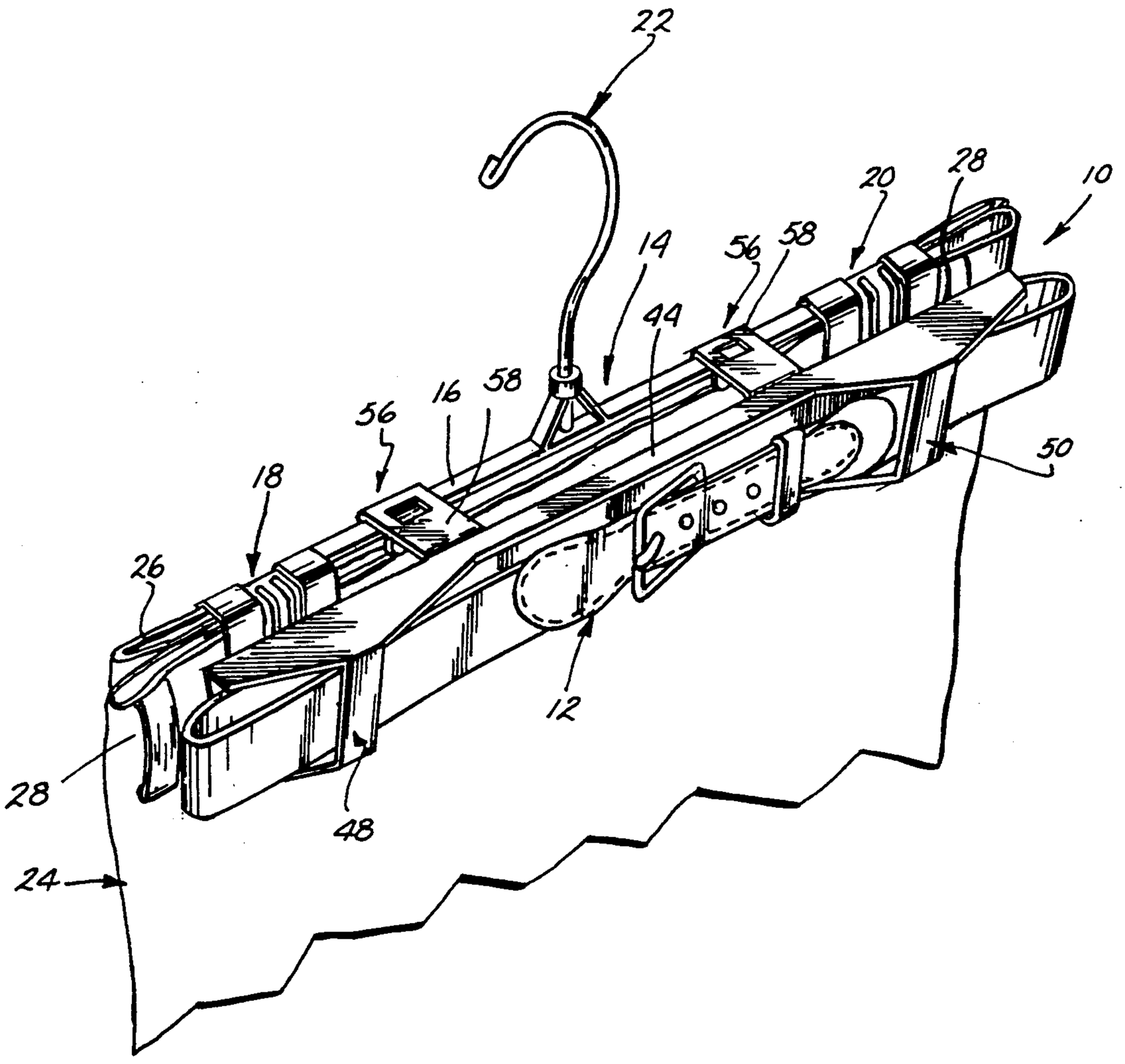
[57] **ABSTRACT**

A hanger for displaying a belt with a garment includes an elongated body and a plurality of loops or straps joined to the body for receiving a belt. The loops simulate the belt loops on a pair of slacks, pants or on a skirt. An attachment arm mounts the hanger onto a garment hanger in the approximate area of the belt loops of the garment. The attachment arm may define a clip which snaps onto the garment hanger or a slot which receives the support hook of the garment hanger. In a further alternative, a pair of clips may be joined to the body to attach the belt display hanger to the garment waistband.

31 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets



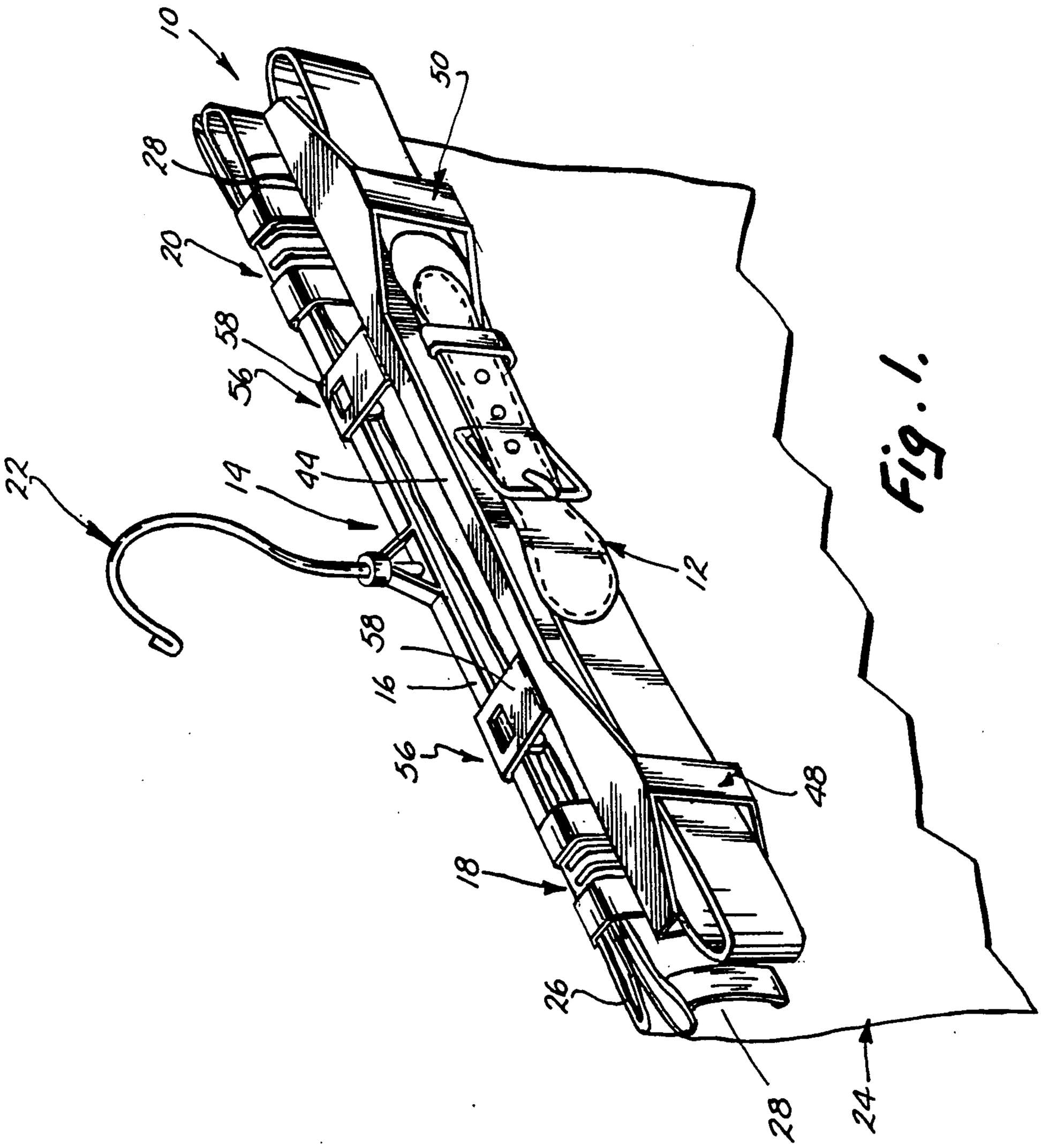


Fig. 1.

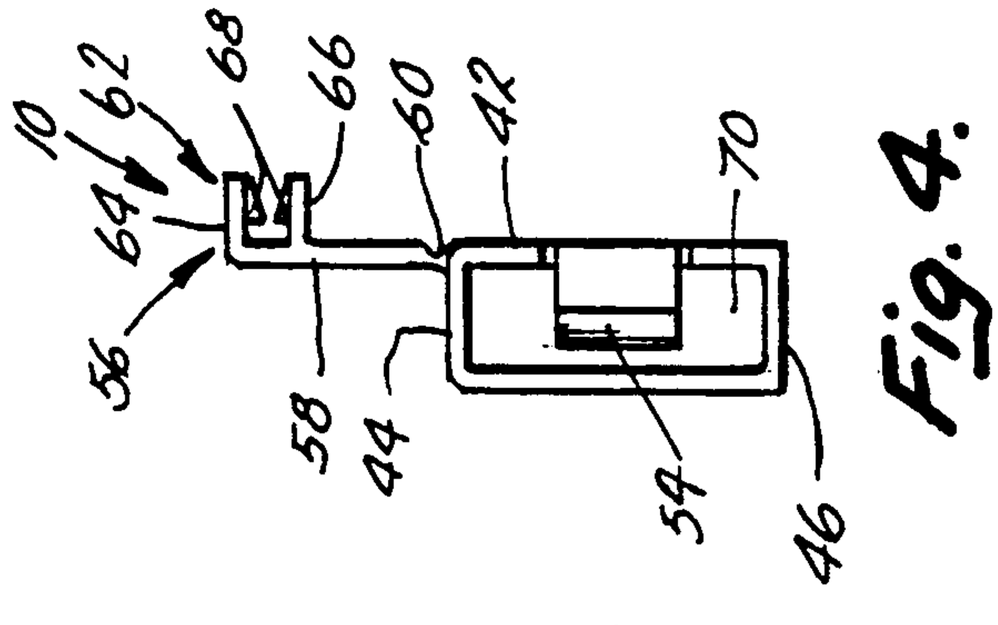


Fig. 4.

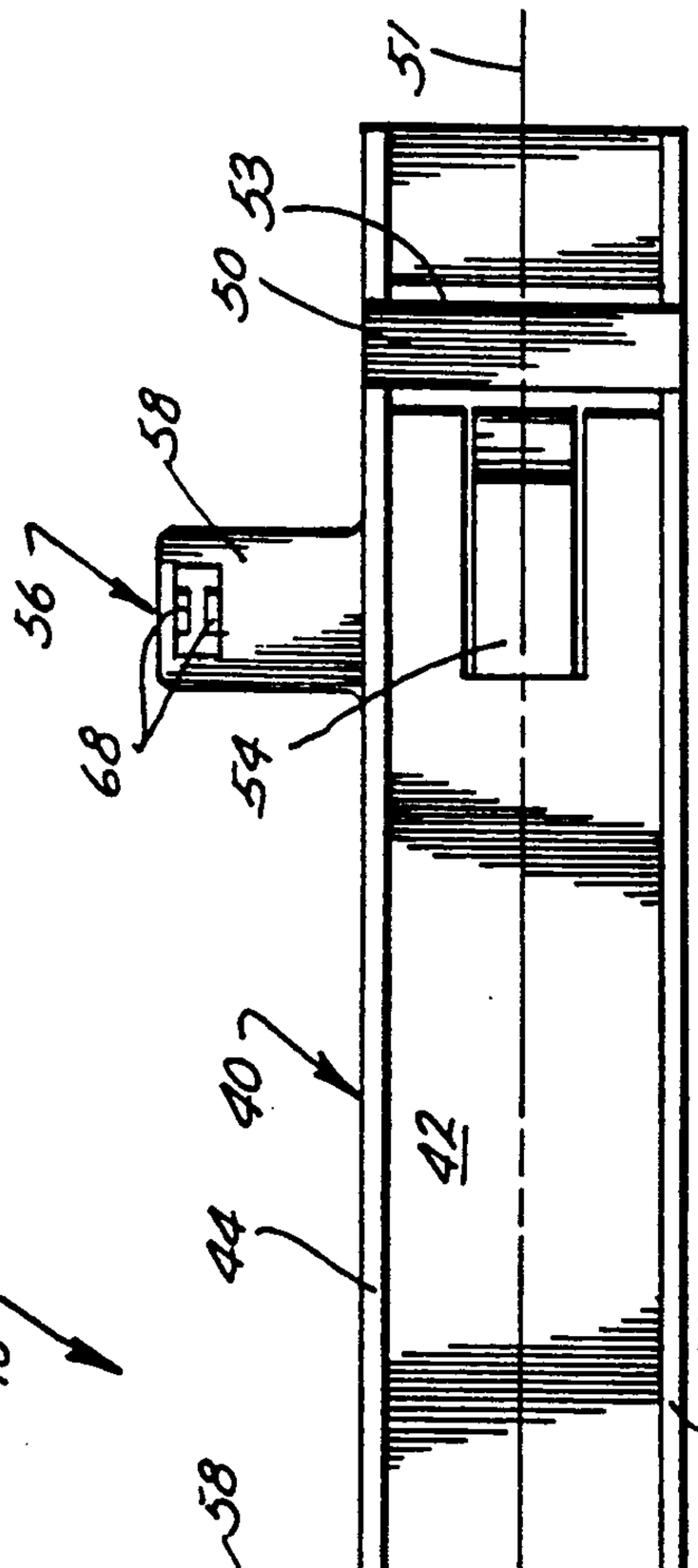


Fig. 2.

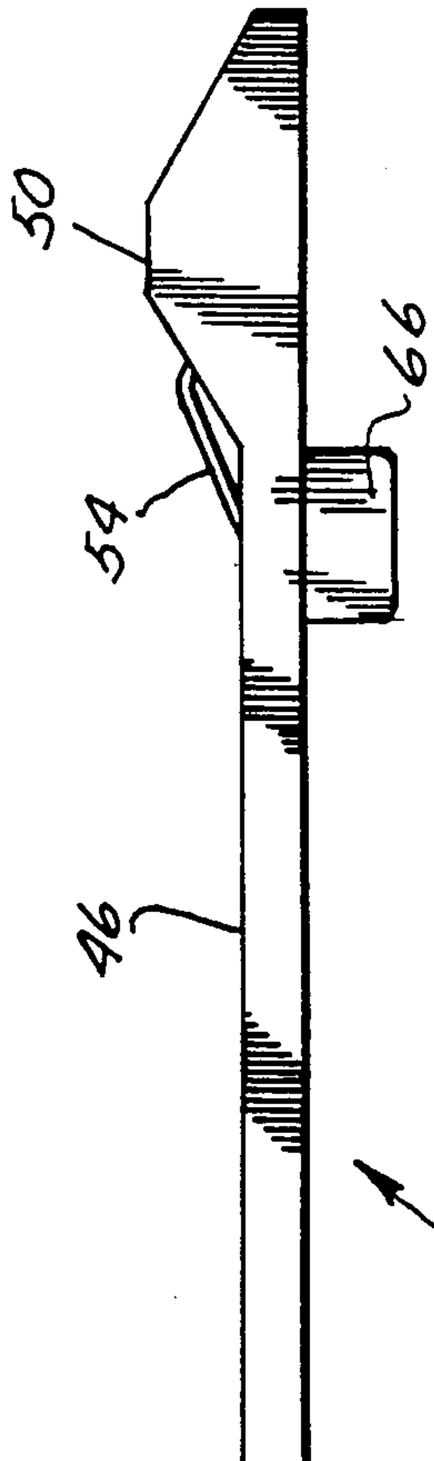


Fig. 3.

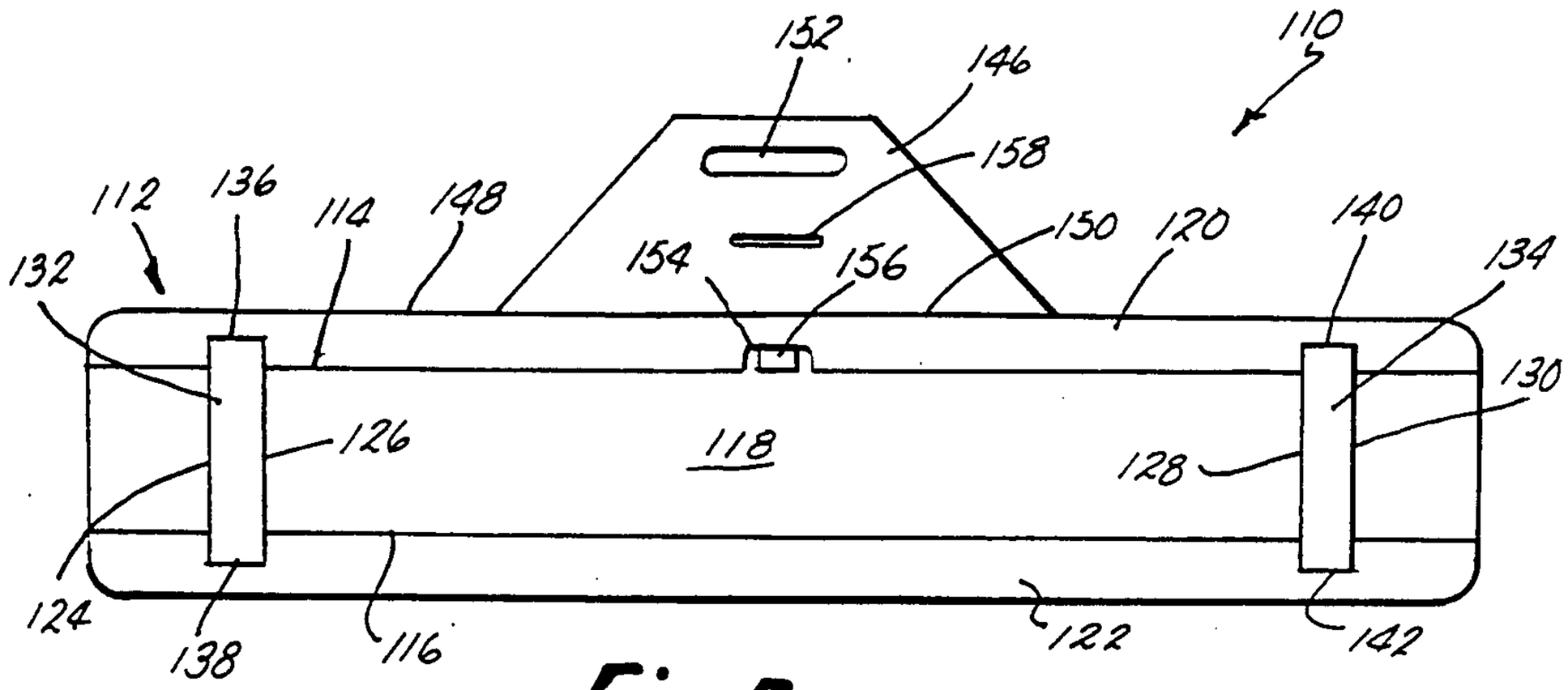


Fig. 5.

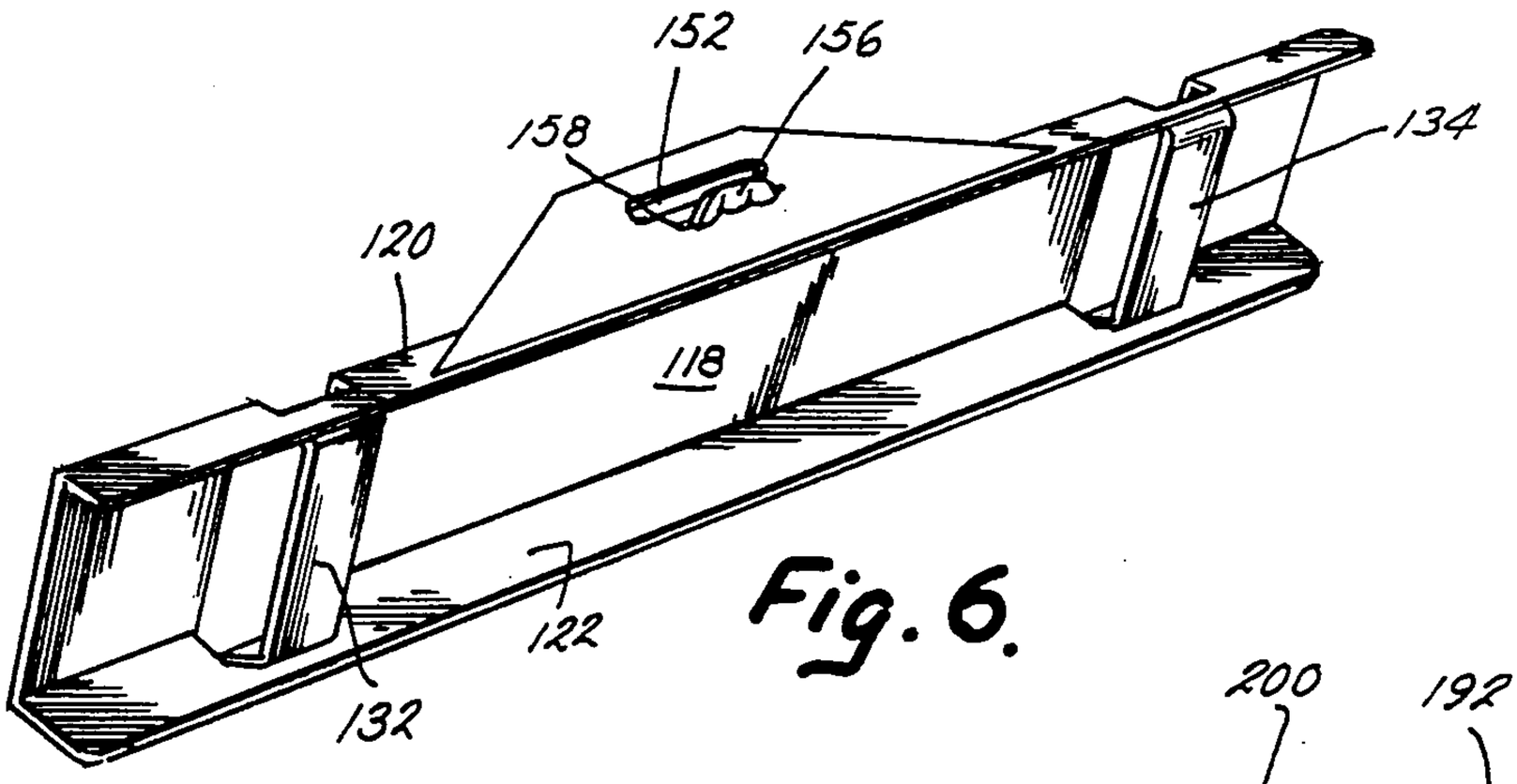


Fig. 6.

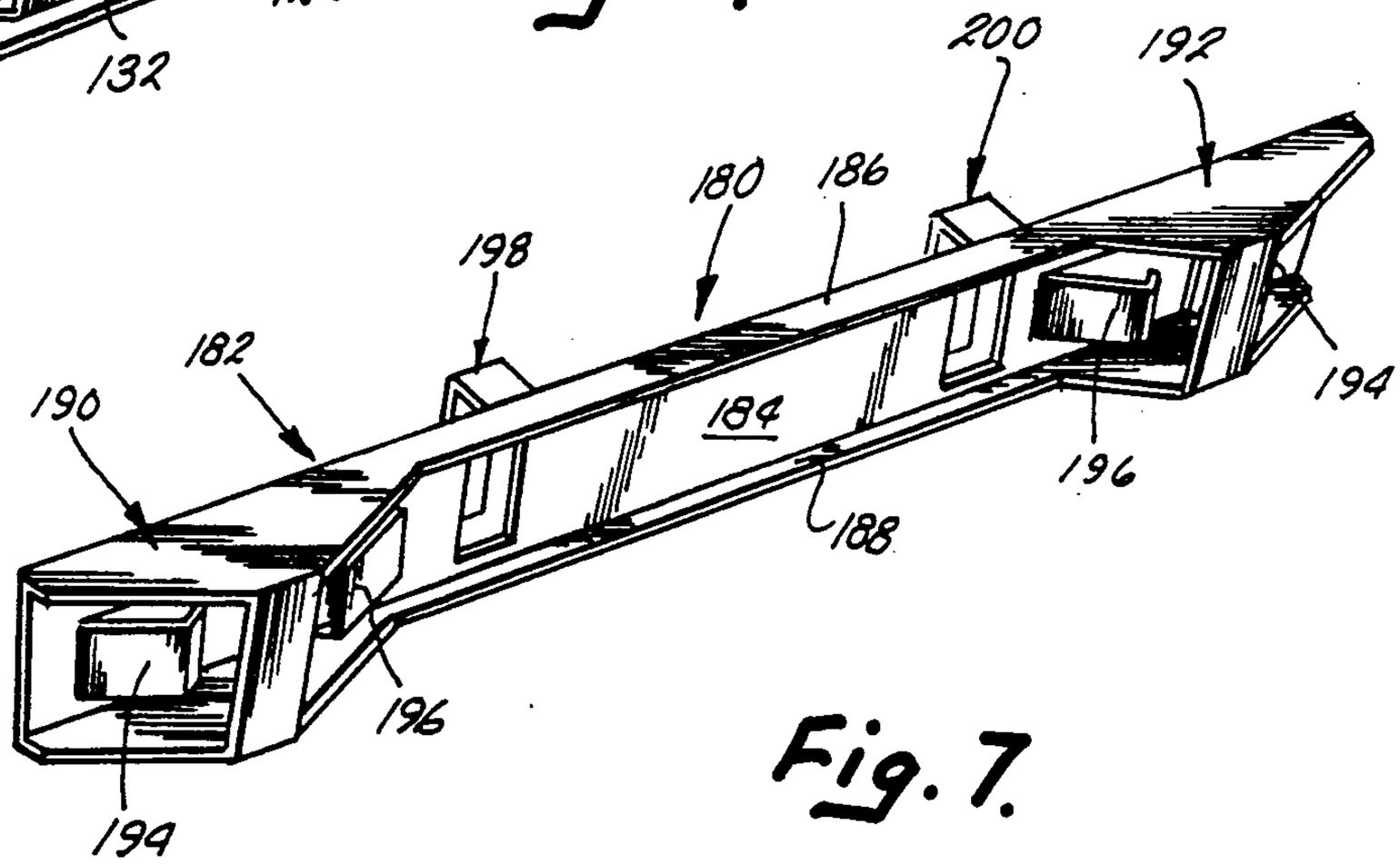


Fig. 7.

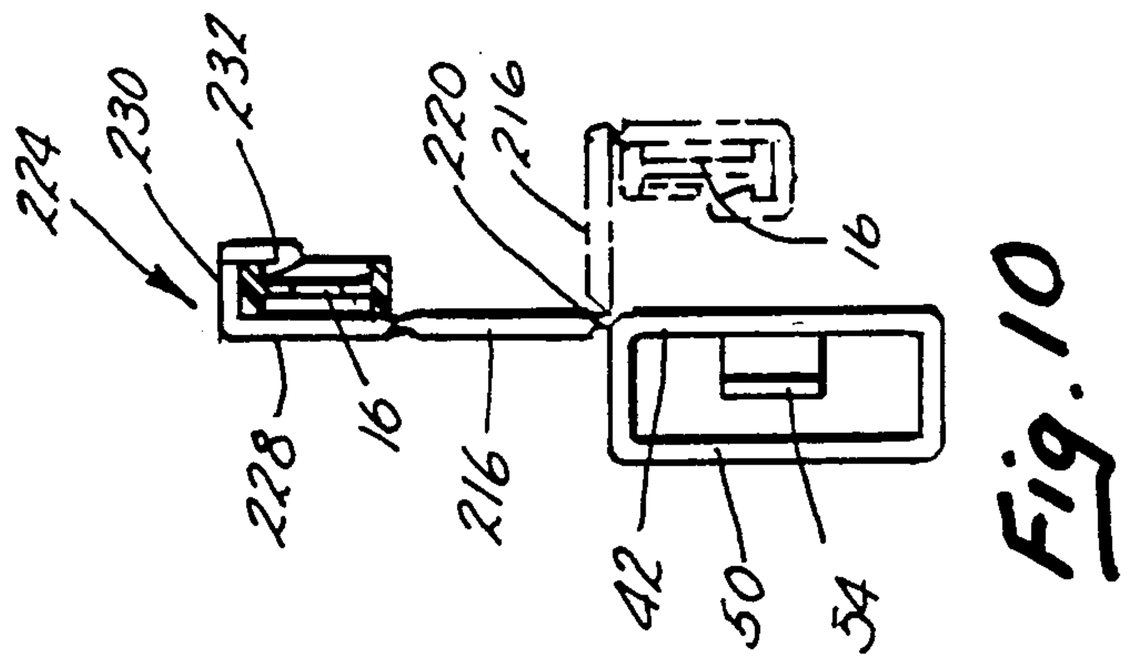


Fig. 10

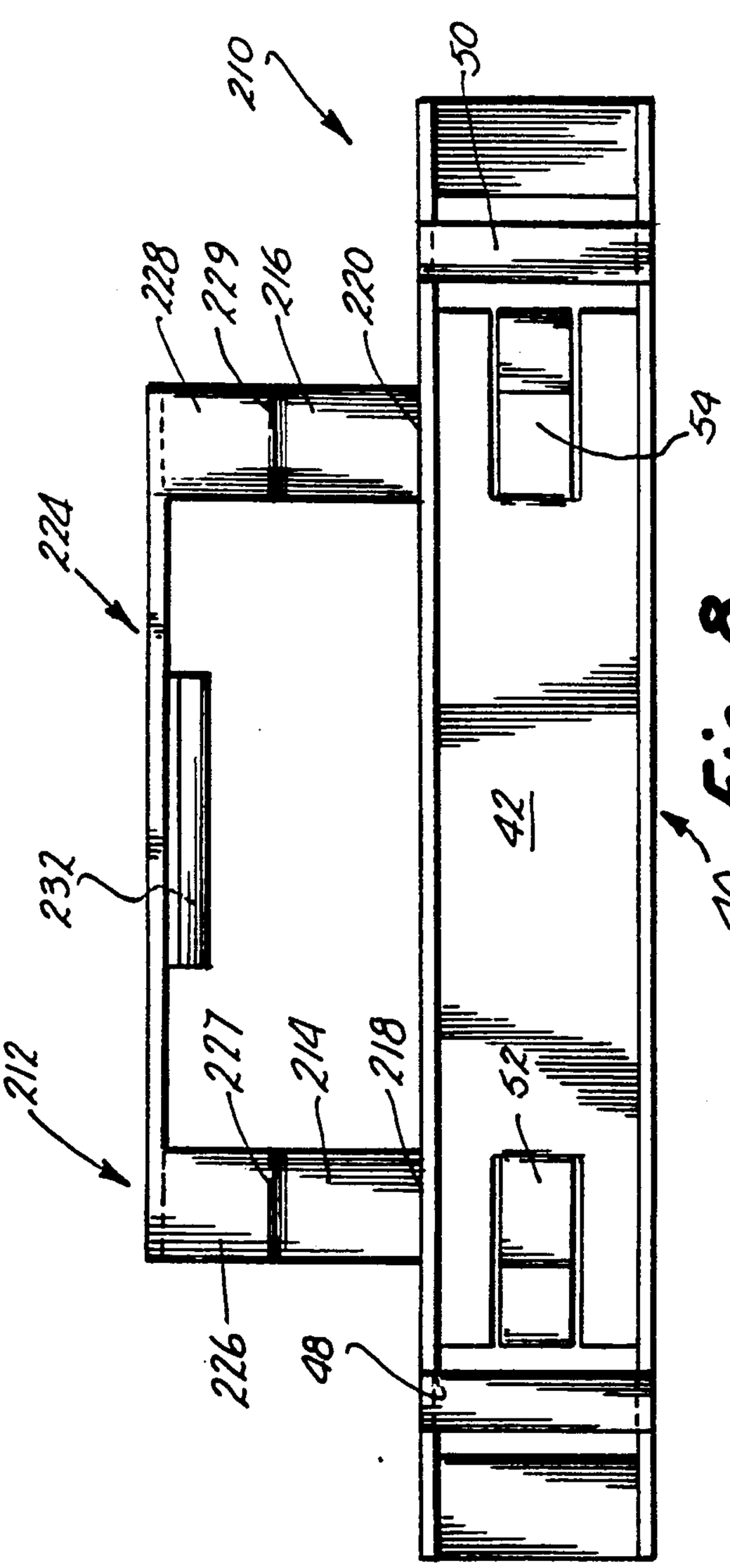


Fig. 8.

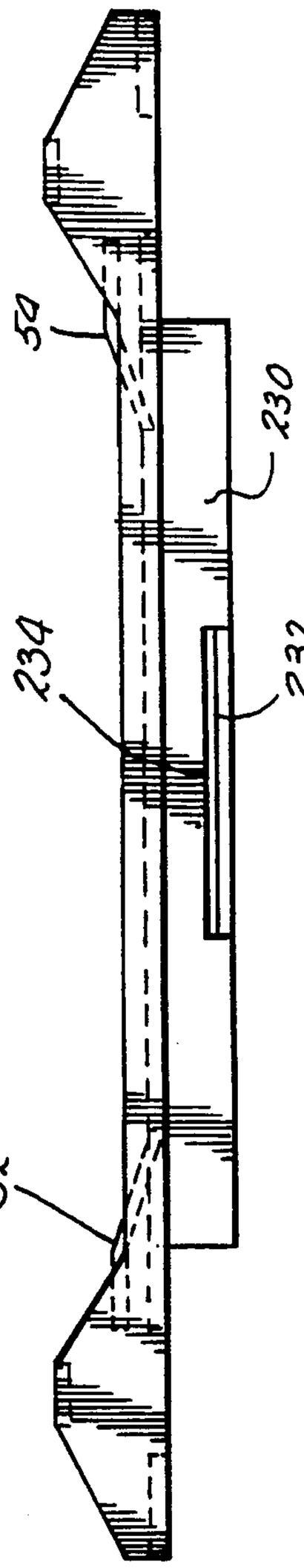


Fig. 9.

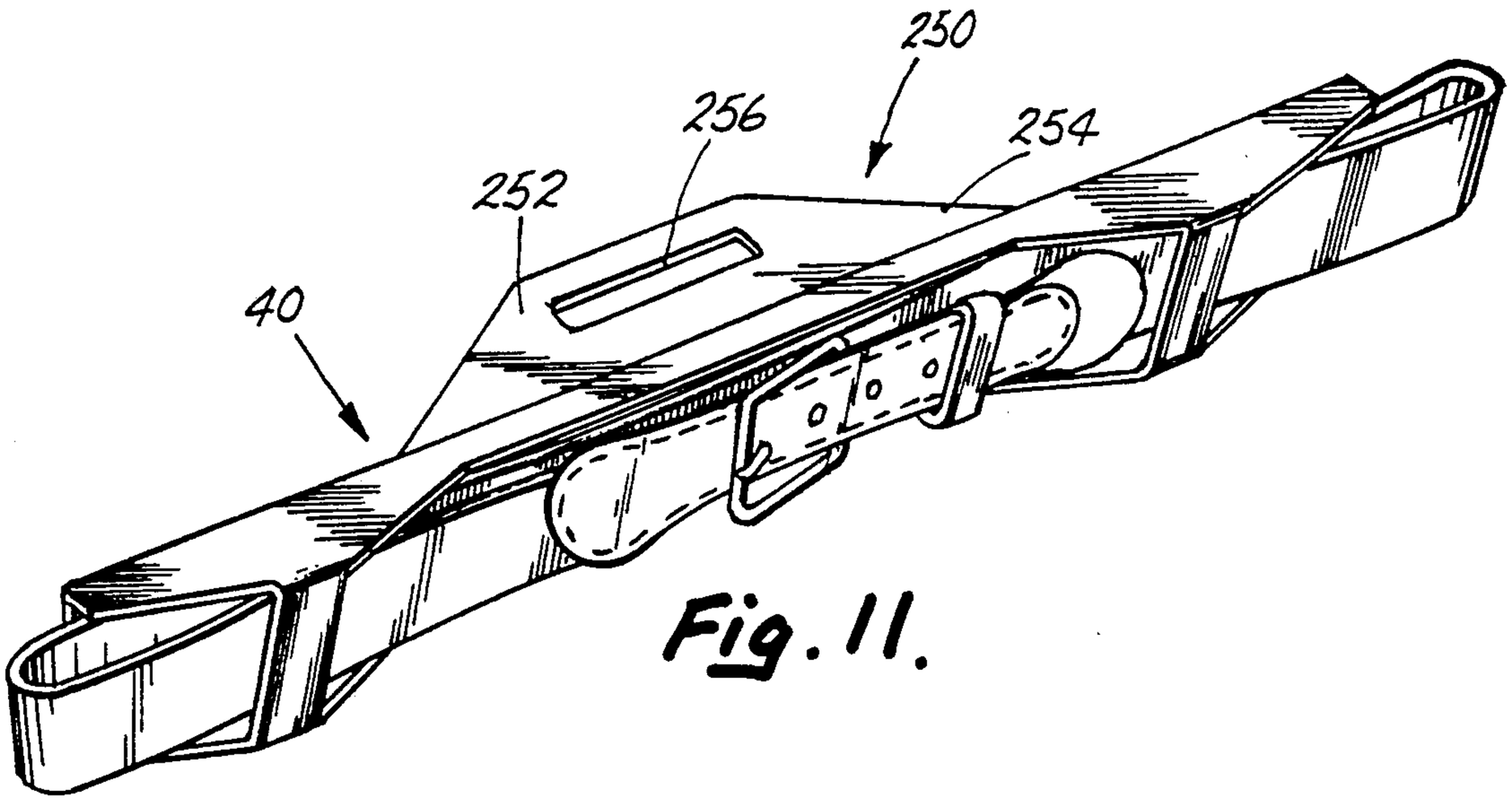


Fig. 11.

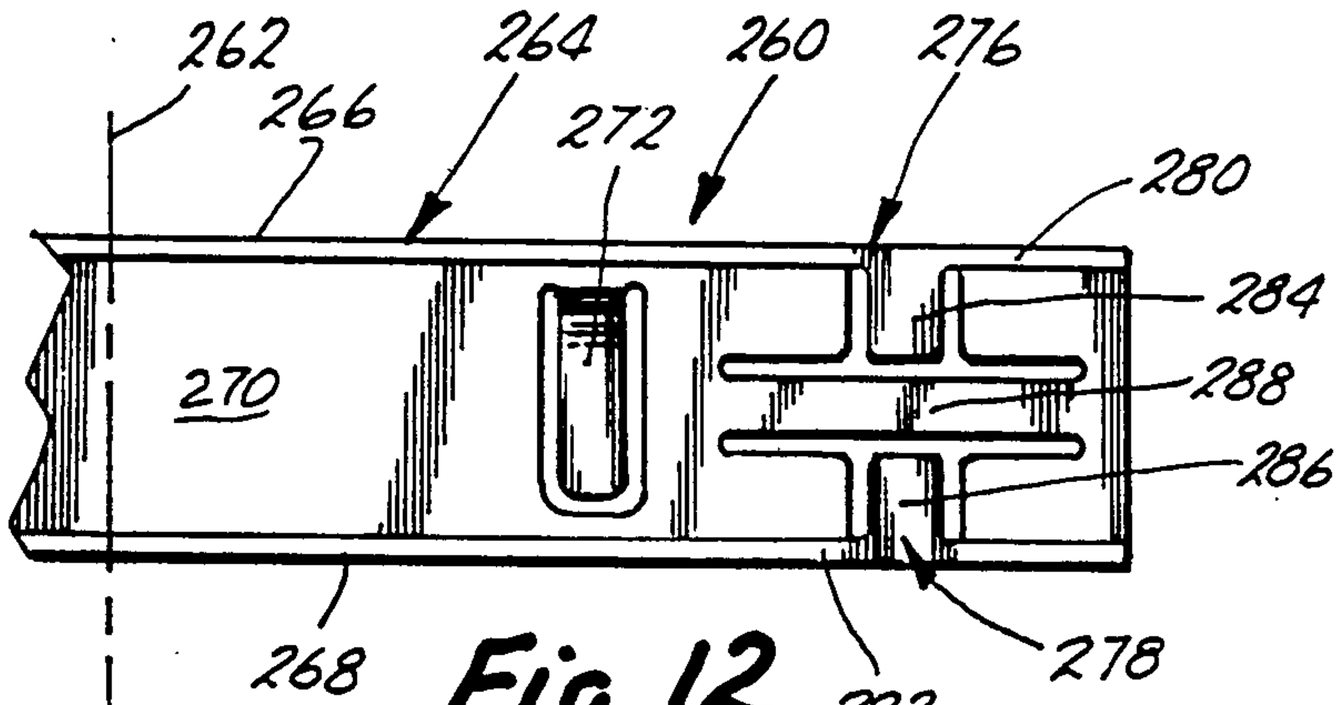


Fig. 12

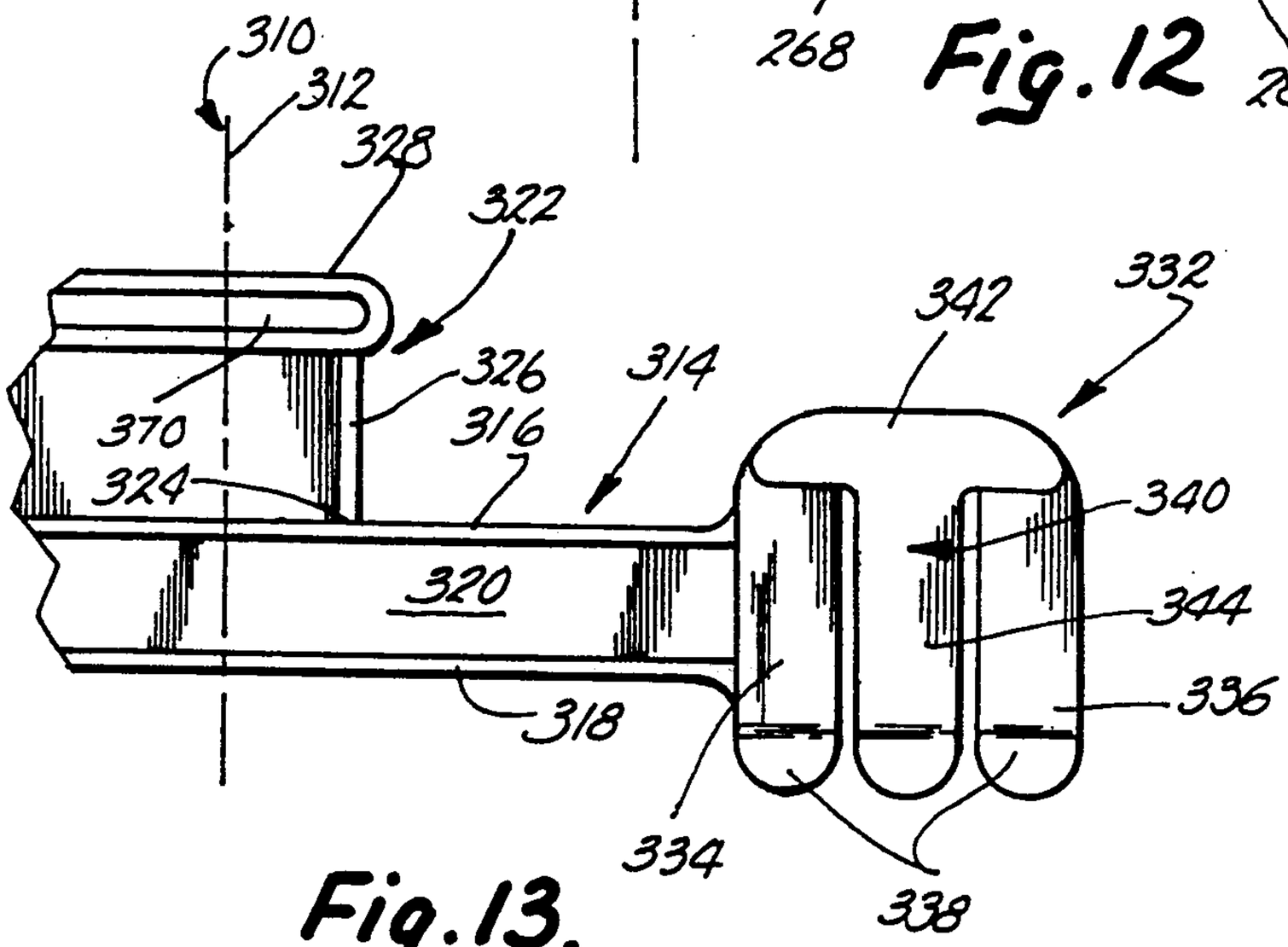


Fig. 13.

BELT DISPLAY HANGER

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to hangers and more particularly to a device for displaying an accessory such as a belt with a garment.

Garments such as pants, slacks or skirts are generally displayed at retail outlets on hangers. Typically, the hanger will engage the garment at the waistband and a plurality of garments are displayed on a rack. One garment hanger which is widely used is of the general type disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 3,767,092 entitled GARMENT CLAMPING HANGER WITH SLIDABLE LOCKING CLIP and which issued on Oct. 23, 1973 to Garrison et al. As disclosed therein, the garment hanger includes an elongated main body having a generally I-beam shape in cross section and a pair of integral, hinged clamp members. The clamp members are biased together and locked by a generally U-shaped spring clip. The garment covers the front face of the hanger body when positioned in the clamps. As a result, the hanger does not detract from the visual presentation of the garment.

In many instances, a garment manufacturer will ship a pair of slacks, pants or the like with a belt threaded through the belt loops. The garment may be sold with a color coordinated accessory. Typically, the garments are shipped to the retailer on the garment hanger. If a retailer desires to combine a belt with the garment, the garment must be removed from the hanger. The belt must be threaded through the loop and the garment rehung. This process is time consuming. Problems are also encountered with rehanging the garments after they have been removed from the hangers by the customer. The customer may experience difficulty in applying the hanger due to interference with the belt. The retailer must spend time, therefore, rehanging the garments to improve the appearance of the display.

A need exists for a device or hanger which permits the ready display of a belt with a garment belt which overcomes the aforementioned problems.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with the present invention, a unique hanger or device is provided for displaying a belt with a garment in a visually pleasing manner. Essentially, the device includes an elongated body having belt mounting means thereon which removably receives a belt. Hanger attachment means are provided for securing the device to a garment hanger or to the garment in the approximate position of the garment belt loops.

In narrower aspects of the invention, a plurality of generally U-shaped straps or loop-like members are joined to the body to simulate the garment belt loops. In one form, the attachment means includes a pair of hinged arms having clips formed thereon which snap onto the garment hanger body. In another form, an arm or tab-like structure defines a slot or aperture which may be slipped over the garment hanger hook. In a still further form, a pair of hook like clips are included so that the device may be clipped onto the garment itself. The device may be molded integrally as a one-piece member in a simple two-piece mold. In the alternative, the device may be fabricated from sheet plastic or cardboard material which is die cut and folded to the appropriate configuration.

The device in accordance with the present invention permits a belt to be displayed with the garment. The belt may be shipped with the garment by the clothing manufacturer or readily added to the display by the clothing retailer. Interference problems with hanging the garment due to the presence of a belt are eliminated. The device presents the belt to the customer in an aesthetically pleasing fashion.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of a garment, garment hanger and belt display hanger in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. **2** is a front, elevational view of a belt display hanger in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. **3** is a bottom plan view of the hanger of FIG. **2**;

FIG. **4** is a side, elevational view of the hanger of FIG. **2**;

FIG. **5** is a view of an alternative embodiment formed from sheet material and shown in a flat or unfolded configuration;

FIG. **6** is a perspective view of the embodiment of FIG. **5** folded to form the hanger;

FIG. **7** is a front perspective view of a further alternative embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. **8** is a front, elevational view of another alternative embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. **9** is a bottom, planned view of the embodiment of FIG. **8**;

FIG. **10** is a side, elevational view of the embodiment of FIG. **8**;

FIG. **11** is a front, perspective view of the device in accordance with the present invention shown with an alternative attachment means;

FIG. **12** is a partial, elevational view of another alternative embodiment of the hanger; and

FIG. **13** is a front, elevational view of a still further alternative embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

A preferred embodiment of a belt display hanger or device in accordance with the present invention is illustrated in FIG. **1** and generally designated by the numeral **10**. Device **10** receives and displays a belt **12** in conjunction with a garment hanger **14**. As shown, garment hanger **14** includes a main garment hanger body **16**, a pair of integral clamps **18, 20** and a central support hook **22**. A garment such as a pair of slacks **24** is held by the garment hanger **14** at the garment waistband **26**. Garment **24** includes a plurality of belt loops **28**. Device **10**, as seen in FIG. **1** displays belt **12** and positions it at the approximate location of belt loops **28**.

As best seen in FIGS. **1–4**, display hanger **10** includes an elongated body **40** having a back portion **42**, an upper flange **44** and a lower flange **46**. Generally U-shaped straps or loops **48, 50** are joined to flanges **44, 46**, adjacent the ends of the elongated body **40**. Straps **48, 50** are positioned and spaced along a longitudinal axis **51** of body **40**. A pair of springs **52, 54** are formed integral with or joined to back portion **42** adjacent loops or straps **48, 50**. The springs are in the form of fingers which extend outwardly from back portion **42** towards the straps. Back portion **42** has apertures **49, 53** which permit body **40** to be molded as a one-piece member in a two-piece mold.

A pair of attachment means **56** are provided for mounting device **10** on garment hanger body **16**. At-

tachment means **56** are spaced along the longitudinal axis of body **40**. Each attachment means **56** includes an arm or tab-like portion **58** having a lower edge joined to body **40** adjacent upper flange **44** by a hinge **60**. Each arm **58** is formed with a generally U-shaped clip **62**. Each clip **62** includes inner and outer flanges **64**, **66** and opposed facing barbs **68**.

In use, a belt **12** is slipped into the passageway **70** (FIG. **4**) defined by body **40** and straps **48**, **50**, as shown in FIG. **1**. Arms **58** of each attachment means **56** are folded downwardly and clips **62** are snapped over body portion **16** of hanger **14**. The device **10** presents the belt at the same approximate position as the belt loops of the slacks **24**. Straps **48**, **50** simulate belt loops. The device provides a readily attachable means for displaying and selling belt accessories with slacks, pants or the like.

An alternative embodiment of the present invention as illustrated in FIGS. **5** and **6** and generally designated by the numeral **110**. Device **110** is a die cut blank formed from a sheet of plastic, cardboard or the like. The blank includes a body **112** having parallel fold lines **114**, **116**. The fold lines extend longitudinally of the body and separate the body into a back portion **118**, an upper flange portion **120** and lower flange portion **122**. Body **112** is slit along lines **124**, **126** and along lines **128**, **130** to define straps or loops **132**, **134**. Loop **132** is joined to the flange portions **120**, **122** at fold lines **136**, **138**. Strap **134** is joined to the upper and lower flange portions at fold lines **140**, **142**. An attachment arm tab, or member **146** is joined to an upper lateral edge **148** of flange portion **120** at a fold line **150**. Attachment arm **146** defines a hook receiving aperture or slot **152**. In addition, body **112** is cut along a line **154** to define a tab **156**. Attachment arm **146** is cut to define a tab receiving slot **158**. As seen in FIG. **6**, the blank shown in FIG. **5** is folded so that straps **132**, **134**, back portion **118** and flange portions **120**, **122** define a passageway for receipt of the garment belt. Attachment arm **146** is folded backwardly onto flange portion **120** at fold line **150**. Tab **156** is inserted through slot **158**. Slot **158** may be slightly curvilinear and the tab **156** formed with vertical fold lines so a firmer attachment between arm **146** and body portion **112** is achieved. The embodiment of FIGS. **5** and **6** is used in substantially the same fashion as the embodiment of FIG. **1–4**. In use, however, hook **22** of the garment hanger is slipped through slot or aperture **152**. The device will rest on the hook boss which receives the shank portion of the hook. The belt will be presented at approximately the same position as the belt loops on the garment as in the prior embodiment.

FIG. **7** illustrates a still further embodiment designated by the numeral **180**. As in the embodiment of FIG. **1**, device **180** includes an elongated body **182** defining a back portion **184**, upper and lower flanges **186**, **188** and integral loop or strap portions **190**, **192**. Embodiment **180** includes a pair of opposed outwardly directed spring fingers **194**, **196** at the strap portions. Embodiment **180** is also formed with a pair of clips or hook-like members **198**, **200**. Members **198**, **200** extend outwardly from the back surface of back portion **184**. The clips are configured so that device **180** may be clipped onto the garment waistband. In this fashion, the device is indirectly attached to the garment hanger. In the alternative, the clips may be configured so that they slip over the garment hanger body.

A still further embodiment of the device **210** is illustrated in FIGS. **8**, **9** and **10**. As shown therein,, device **210** includes body **40** of the embodiment of FIGS. **2–4**. An alternative attachment means **212** is provided. Attachment means **212** includes a pair of outwardly extending arms **214**, **216**. Arms **214**, **216** are hinged to back portion **42** by integral living hinges **218**, **220**, respectively. A channel shaped member **224** includes side portions **226**, **228** joined to arms **214**, **216** by hinges **227**, **229** respectively. Member **224** further includes a base **230** and an outer side wall or flange **232**. Flange **232** defines an inwardly directed barb **234** (FIG. **10**).

As shown, attachment means **224** provides two ways by which device **210** may be secured to garment hanger body **16**. In the first form, shown in solid lines in FIG. **10**, body **40** is suspended from an upper lateral edge of body **16** with flange **232** and barb **254** snap fitted over the body. In the alternative form, shown in the dotted lines in FIG. **10**, arms **214**, **216** are hinged perpendicular to back portion **42** and side portions **226**, **228** are hinged perpendicular to arms **214**, **216**. Flange **232** and barb **234** are then snap fitted over a lower edge of body **16**.

As shown in FIG. **11**, body **40** of the embodiment shown in FIGS. **2–4** may be provided with a further alternative attachment means **250**. Attachment means **250** includes an arm or member **252** joined to body **240** along a hinge line **254**. Member **252** defines a support hook receiving slot or aperture **256**. The embodiment shown in FIG. **11** is used in the same fashion as the FIG. **6** embodiment.

FIG. **12** illustrates the right half of a still further alternative embodiment generally designated **260**. Embodiment **260** is symmetrical about a vertical center line **262** and hence only one half of the device is illustrated. Device **260** includes a body **264** having upper and lower flanges **266**, **268** and a back portion **270**. Clips **272** are joined to body **264**. The clips are the same as clips **198**, **200** of the embodiment of FIG. **7**. A pair of opposed generally L-shaped portions **276**, **278** are joined to flanges **266**, **268** respectively. Members **276**, **278** include outwardly extending legs **280**, **282** and opposed right angled legs **284**, **286**. Legs **284**, **286** define the strap or loop of the embodiment of FIG. **12**. A bowed member **288** is formed in back portion **270**. Member **288** extends outwardly towards legs **284**, **286**. The configuration of the legs and the bowed spring member **288** permits the device to be manufactured in a simple, two-piece bow.

A still further alternative embodiment of the device is illustrated in FIG. **13** and generally designated by the numeral **310**. Device **310** is symmetrical about a vertical center line **312** and only the right half of the device is illustrated. As shown, device **310** includes a body **314** having upper and lower beads or flanges **316**, **318** and a central portion **320**. An attachment member **322** is hingedly connected to body **314** along a hinge line **324**. Member **322** includes a strap portion **326** joined to an end portion **328** which defines a hook receiving aperture or slot **330**. A three finger clamp **332** is joined to each end of body **320**. Clamp **322** includes a pair of rear fingers **334**, **336** which are longitudinally spaced from each other. Each rear finger **334**, **336** includes a barb **338**. A front finger **340** having a generally L-shaped configuration, includes a top portion **342** and a downwardly extending portion **344**. Portion **342** is joined to fingers **334**, **336**. Downwardly depending portion **334** is positioned longitudinally between fingers **334**, **336**. In the embodiment of FIG. **13**, a belt is pushed or snap fitted into the clamp members **332**, the belt is pressed against rear fingers **334**, **336** by the front finger **340**. Front finger **344** functions as a strap or loop and presents the appearance of a belt loop.

In view of the above description, those of ordinary skill in the art may envision various modifications to the belt display hanger which would not depart from the inventive concepts disclosed herein. It is expressly intended, therefore, that the above description should be considered as only that of the preferred embodiments. The true spirit and scope of the present invention may be determined by reference to the appended claims.

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows.

I claim:

1. A device for displaying a belt with a garment on a hanger, said device comprising:

a body having a longitudinal axis;

belt mounting means on said body for removably receiving a belt, said belt mounting means defining a portion having the appearance of a belt loop; and

hanger attachment means on said body for attaching the body to a garment and hanger.

2. A device as defined by claim **1** wherein said body includes a back portion and said attachment means extends generally outwardly from said back portion.

3. A device as defined by claim **2** when said attachment means comprises:

a pair of tabs joined to said body at longitudinally spaced points, said tabs each including spaced flanges extending perpendicular to said tabs, said flanges positioned to define a clip dimensioned to receive the garment hanger.

4. A device as defined by claim **3** wherein said flanges each define inwardly directed, opposed barbs configured to capture the garment hanger in a snap fitted, detent-like fashion.

5. A device as defined by claim **1** further comprising:

spring means on said body for biasing a belt into engagement with said belt mounting means.

6. A device as defined by claim **5** wherein said belt mounting means comprises:

a pair of longitudinally spaced straps joined to said body and defining a passage therewith for receipt of a belt.

7. A device as defined by claim **6** wherein said spring means comprises:

a pair of resilient fingers joined to and longitudinally spaced on said body, said fingers configured and dimensioned to engage and resiliently bias a belt into snug engagement with said straps.

8. A device as defined by claim **7** wherein said attachment means comprises:

a pair of tabs joined to said body at longitudinally spaced points, said tabs each including spaced flanges extending perpendicular to said tabs, said flanges positioned to define a clip dimensioned to receive the garment hanger.

9. A device as defined by claim **8** further including hinge means for joining said tabs to said body.

10. A device as defined by claim **9** wherein said flanges each define inwardly directed, opposed barbs configured to capture the garment hanger in a snap fitted, detent-like fashion.

11. A device as defined by claim **1** wherein said hanger attachment means comprises a pair of longitudinally spaced hooks joined to said body.

12. A device as defined by claim **11** further comprising:

spring means on said body for biasing a belt into engagement with said belt mounting means.

13. A device as defined by claim **12** wherein said belt mounting means comprises:

a pair of longitudinally spaced straps joined to said body and defining a passage therewith for receipt of a belt.

14. A device as defined by claim **13** wherein said spring means comprises:

a pair of resilient fingers joined to and longitudinally spaced on said body, said fingers configured and dimensioned to engage and resiliently bias a belt into snug engagement with said straps.

15. A device as defined by claim **1** wherein said attachment means comprises an attachment arm joined to said body, said attachment arm defining an aperture dimensioned to receive a support hook of the garment hanger.

16. A device as defined by claim **15** further comprising:

spring means on said body for biasing a belt into engagement with said belt mounting means.

17. A device as defined by claim **16** wherein said belt mounting means comprises:

a pair of longitudinally spaced straps joined to said body and defining a passage therewith for receipt of a belt.

18. A device as defined by claim **17** wherein said spring means comprises:

a pair of resilient fingers joined to and longitudinally spaced on said body, said fingers configured and dimensioned to engage and resiliently bias a belt into snug engagement with said straps.

19. A device as defined by claim **1** wherein said body comprises:

an elongated blank defining a pair of spaced, parallel, longitudinally extending fold lines dividing said blank into a back portion and upper and lower flange portions.

20. A device as defined by claim **19** wherein the upper flange portion defines a lateral edge and said attachment means comprises:

said blank defining an attachment portion joined to said lateral edge along another fold line, said attachment portion defining a hook receiving aperture.

21. A device as defined by claim **20** wherein said blank further defines a pair of spaced strap portions hingedly joined to said blank flange portions by fold lines.

22. A device as defined by claim **21** wherein said blank further defines a tab joined to the back portion of said upper flange portion and wherein said attachment portion defines a slot for receipt of said tab.

23. A device as defined by claim **1** wherein said belt mounting means comprises:

a pair of opposed, outwardly and inwardly directed, generally L-shaped fingers, said fingers along with said body defining a channel for receipt of the belt.

24. A device as defined by claim **23** wherein said body includes a resilient spring adjacent said fingers.

25. A device as defined by claim **24** wherein said hanger attachment means comprises:

a pair of longitudinally spaced hooks joined to said body.

26. A device as defined by claim **1** wherein said body is an elongated member having ends and said attachment means comprises a pair of clamp means, one at each end of said body, for receiving the belt, said clamp means each comprising:

a pair of longitudinally spaced rear fingers; and

a front strap having a generally L-shaped and being joined to said rear fingers and positioned spaced from and in between said rear fingers, said fingers and said strap defining a channel-like passage for receipt of said belt.

27. A device as defined by claim **1** wherein said attachment means comprises:

a pair of longitudinally spaced arms joined to said body; and

a channel shaped member joined to said arms, said member including a base and an attachment flange joined to said base, said flange defining a barb, said base and said flange dimensioned to snap over the garment hanger.

28. A device as defined by claim **27** wherein said arms and said channel shaped member are hingedly interconnected.

29. A device as defined by claim **28** wherein said arms are hinged to said body.

30. A device as defined by claim **29** further comprising:

spring means on said body for biasing a belt into engagement with said belt mounting means.

31. A device as defined by claim **30** wherein said belt mounting means comprises:

a pair of longitudinally spaced straps joined to said body and defining a passage therewith for receipt of a belt.

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